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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/727,201	11/30/2000	Earl Goodrich II	Sprint 1504 (4000-3000)	3225
7590		01/28/2004	EXAMINER	
Steven J. Funk		TIEU, BINH KIEN		
Sprint Law Department		ART UNIT		
8140 Ward Parkway		PAPER NUMBER		
Kansas City, MO 64114		2643		
			DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/727,201

Applicant(s)

GOODRICH ET AL.

Examiner

BINH K. TIEU

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Das et al. (U.S. Pat. #: 4,435,803).

Regarding claim 1, Das et al. (“Das”) teaches a method for reducing the power (i.e., by reducing a number of ring sources to a single shared ring source) by an integrated services hub (i.e., a typical line cluster 30, as shown in figure 2) supporting a plurality of telephone circuits (i.e., lines circuits 1-28 and 31-58 serving T and R wires 42-48 as shown in figure 3; col.4, line 67 – col.6, line 45), comprising offsetting ringing (i.e., ring relays with various ringing frequencies coupled to ring circuits such as ring circuits 74 and 76; col.6, line 46 – col.7, line 6) of each of the plurality of telephone circuit such that all the telephone circuit do not ring simultaneously (col.7, line 39 – col.8, line 27).

Regarding claim 2, note figure 6(a).

Regarding claim 3, further note col.8, lines 19-27.

Regarding claim 4, note figures 6(a)-6(c); col.7, lines 39-45. It should be understood that Das gives the example of the ring cadence of 1.3 second ON and 4.7 seconds OFF (non-ringing

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interval). Similar values of ring cadence such as 1.5 second ON and 4.5 second OFF can be also given.

Regarding claim 5, note col.7, line 67 - col.8, line 2 and col.8, lines 25-27. It should be also understood that Das gives the example of 300 ms of the ring cadence in according to the example of the ring cadence of 1.3 second ON and 4.7 seconds OFF. Similar values of the ringing cadence can be set, for example, 250 ms.

Regarding claim 6, note col.8, lines 8-25.

Regarding claim 7, note col.5, lines 54-66 and col.6, line 66 – col.7, line 15.

Regarding claim 8, Das teaches an apparatus for reducing the power (i.e., by reducing a number of ring sources to a single shared ring source) by an integrated services hub (i.e., a typical line cluster 30, as shown in figure 2) supporting a plurality of telephone circuits (i.e., lines circuits 1-28 and 31-58 serving T and R wires 42-48 as shown in figure 3; col.4, line 67 – col.6, line 45), comprising:

a plurality of subscriber line access circuits (SLICs) (i.e., CKT 0-59, Fig.3; col.5, lines 26-66) connected to and received power from a ring voltage power supply (i.e., Ring circuits 1 and 2 and DC voltage generator, Fig.5), each SLIC connected to telephone circuit further comprising a telephone line for driving a ring voltage to a telephone connected to the telephone line (i.e., ring circuit shown in Fig.4; col.6, line 46 – col.7, line 35); and

a microprocessor (i.e., processor 24, Fig.1, Processor 33, Fig.2) connected to and controlling the SLICs such that all the telephone circuits do not ring simultaneously (col.7, line 39 – col.8, line 27).

Regarding claim 9, also note ring circuit as shown in Fig.4; col.6, line 46 – col.7, line 35.

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Regarding claim 10, note col.5, lines 54-66 and col.6, line 66 – col.7, line 15.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chea, Jr. (U.S. Pat. #: 4,349,703) teaches an improved programmable ringing signal generator that generating offset ringing cadences or durations as shown in figures 5 for use on a plurality of telephone circuits.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh K. Tieu whose telephone number is (703) 305-3963 and E-mail address: BINH.TIEU@USPTO.GOV.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708 and **IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE CALL Customer Service at (703) 306-0377 FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.**

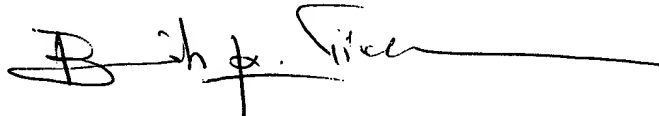
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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist, tel. No. 703-305-4700).



**BINH TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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Date: January 16, 2004